



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

---

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

---

**MAY 19, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE**  
**EXCELSIOR SPRINGS MAN PLEADS GUILTY**  
**TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Excelsior Springs, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's conviction, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Michael A. Lighthill**, 35, of Excelsior Springs, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Lighthill** admitted that he was in possession of a High Standard .22-caliber revolver on Nov. 15, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Lighthill** has two 2002 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and two 1990 criminal felony convictions for writing an insufficient funds check and robbery.

**Lighthill** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

\*\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)